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New Bernal Journal

515 CORTLAND AVENUE - SAN FRANCISCO - CALIFORNIA - 94110

SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

¡Sección Especial! NBJ en Español: Página 9

It's Time for Bernal's Community Congress

BHNC takes on the challenge to support the Alemany development and Paul Revere Elementary once again.

By Mauricio Vela,
BHNC Executive Director

It's Congress time in Bernal and at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. We use this opportunity to share with our members our accomplishments and challenges, our revenues and expenditures, and to provide you with an opportunity to get to know our board, staff, and programs. This is also a time to elect five members to our board of directors and get involved with current campaigns and ones that will be launched during the summer.

This year, we will also be looking for some strategic input as we update our current organizational plan. Congress also serves as a major milestone in our annual membership drive. Our goal this year is to sign up 1,300 members by June 30.

We pride ourselves on being an open organization and use Congress as a way to meet the city's Sunshine Ordinance. The

funds we raise to operate our programs and activities belong to the community, so we look forward to sharing with you how we invested these funds.

Our annual election gives you the opportunity to meet and hear why candidates would like to sit on our board and what skills and interest they bring prior to voting* at Congress. The board comprises seventeen members in total, with five members elected annually and two appointed by the board.

Current voting members who want to run for the board must submit their completed application by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4 to be on the Congress ballot. You can pick up an application at the neighborhood center in the front office.

Our breakout groups tentatively are as follows:

- Bernal's Mission Street Planning (Cesar Chavez to Randall St.) draft plan presentation

- No Home Depot Campaign, year four

- Supporting Paul-Revere Elementary School

- Strategic Planning Input session with an highlight of the BHNC's Excelsior district work

- A presentation on our new Alemany Housing Development Organizing project.

We cannot run successful campaigns without your participation.

Invited guests include Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, School Board member Jill Wynns, Paul Revere Principal Laura Parker, Ingleside Captain Paul Chignell, and many other active community figures.

As always, coffee, pan dulce, and lunch will be provided. Please join us for this very important morning. Remember, this is your neighborhood center.

We hope to see you Saturday, June 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the

Neighborhood Center.

For more information, please call Ron Morgan at 206-2140 ext. 155 or myself at 206-2140 ext. 121.

**Voting members are current dues-paying members who live or work in Bernal, a client of the BHNC, reside with an active BHNC client, and/or live in one of the BHNC housing developments.*

**Not a BHNC member yet?
Want to vote at Congress?
It's not too late! See the
tear-out form on page 3
and send it in with your
payment as soon as
possible. We're counting
on your support!**

Home Depot's Daly City Shocker

Planned store in Westlake Shopping Center undercuts SF EIR

By Ron Morgan

The *New Bernal Journal* has learned that Home Depot is proposing to build a two-story retail store and outdoor garden center in the Westlake Shopping Center, just across the San Francisco city limits in Daly City. The proposed store, which would be part of a larger redevelopment of the shopping center, requires no zoning review, and needs only to pass design review to get permit approval from the Daly City planning department.

According to Tatum Mothershead, a planner with the City of Daly City, the proposed store would be built on the present site of the unused J.C. Penney. Home Depot plans to demolish the old store and build a new two-story store, with 50,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor and approximately 44,000 square feet of retail space on the second, as well as a 16,000-square-foot outdoor garden center. Mothershead said that the project could be approved and ready to break ground as early as this fall, although for practical reasons she anticipates construction will begin next spring.

The development of a Home Depot Big Box store raises serious questions about the

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on its proposed Bayshore development, which still awaits permit approval. The EIR for the proposed Bayshore/Cortland Home Depot, which after two years is still not finalized, bases most of its significant findings and assertions on traffic patterns and consideration of alternatives to the proposed development on the condition that there are only two Home Depot sites in Colma, and one projected on Bayshore/Cortland. The addition of a new store in the EIR's research area calls into question most of the EIR's supporting data.

Also thrown into question by the development of the Westlake Home Depot are assertions that the proposed Bayshore/Cortland Home Depot would help stop "leakage" of San Francisco home improvement dollars to other localities, as well as provide a net increase in revenue to the city through increased sales taxes. The Westlake Home Depot is strategically located to market to residents in the Sunset, OMI, and Outer Mission, and Crocker-Amazon neighborhoods, whose dollars and sales tax would presumably flee the city as quickly as a Bayshore/Cortland Home Depot would grab dollars from other SF eastern neigh-



BERNALUJAH! "You guys are heroes!" Reverend Billy and his 20-piece Stop Big Boxes Gospel Choir made a stop at the BHNC on April 23 during their whirlwind California tour of neighborhoods under siege by Big Box and chain developments. Bill "Reverend Billy" Talen congratulated Bernal neighbors for the campaign to keep the impacts of a mega Home Depot from wrecking Bernal. Before moving to New York City, and national acclaim as a performer/activist, Talen lived in Bernal Heights and founded SF's Life on the Water Theater.

borhoods, which which would greatly diminish the projected benefit of the proposed Bayshore/Cortland store.

The largest practical question asked by Bernal neighbors in light of the news of the Westlake Home Depot is whether Home Depot will continue to pursue

development at the Bayshore/Cortland site. As of press time, the answer to that is yes. The Planning Commission hearing on the Final EIR for the proposed Home Depot development at Bayshore/Cortland is tentatively scheduled for early August.

The New Bernal Journal

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The New Bernal Journal
is a neighborhood newspaper
sponsored by the
Bernal Heights
Neighborhood Center.
It is dedicated to providing the
people of Bernal Heights with their
community's news, ideas, issues,
and events which support the
center's mission:

To preserve and enhance the ethnic,
cultural, and economic diversity and
well-being of the Bernal Heights com-
munity. We work to build a strong
community for all, with a focus on
the needs of low- and moderate-
income people. We do this by
providing services to support and
increase opportunities for seniors,
youth, and others most at-risk; by
preserving and expanding access to
affordable housing; and by building
the neighborhood's power and
capacity to achieve these goals. We
commit to being a provider of essen-
tial services, a builder of community,
and a force for organizing
neighborhood change.

The New Bernal Journal is
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of the *NBJ* are due by 07/16/04.
Please make all computer disk
submissions in PC format, or e-mail
them to nbj@bhnc.org



From the Executive Director

Dear Members and Neighbors,

Springtime is always enjoyable as flowers bloom, the weather warms up, and summer nears. Here at the neighborhood center, youth begin to come in looking for summer jobs, and we start planning our summer. We begin to plan our Hillwide Garage Sale (see page 4 for the sign-up form), participate in the annual budget fight, and Congress kicks off our Bernal summer.

Our membership drive is up and running, although we're a little behind from where we were at last year at this time. We have a 25-year tradition of running an activist-based neighborhood center, and our strong membership demonstrates this to San Francisco City Hall and other government and funding organizations.

Please use the enclosed tear-out sheet on page 3 to join the BHNC today and help us reach our goal of 1,300 members. We could use help on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings, whether calling Bernal residents or talking to them on Cortland Avenue. Please call the center if you can spare some time to help with the membership drive.

We highlight the neighborhood center's programs in this issue, especially our youth programs. We have important late-breaking news on Home Depot's efforts to saturate San Francisco and Daly City. A essential local housing bond has been introduced at the Board of Supervisors to support our development of affordable housing, and our Hillwide Garage Sale supports our senior services. We also have lots of other news on Bernal schools and happenings in the 'hood.

I want to invite each and everyone of you to our annual Community Congress. It is a chance to get to know the neighborhood center better, and for board and staff to get to know you. It's also a great opportunity to get involved in our community. Bernal's success has been attributed to the large amount of activism and community support for maintaining and enhancing services for those most in need, which indirectly benefits all of us. While all the aspects of Congress are important, two this year that especially deserve your attention are our strategic planning input session which will highlight all of our work in the Excelsior, and our continued efforts to improve and support our public schools and public housing.

I hope you'll join us on Saturday, June 12, at 9:30 a.m.

As always, you can reach me at 206-2140 ext. 121 or mvela@bhnc.org.

Sincerely,

Mauricio E. Vela
BHNC Executive Director

CALLING ALL BERNAL RESIDENTS!

The New Bernal Journal needs YOU!

Do you have an interesting story about our neighborhood?

Do you have news we should be sharing
with the rest of Bernal?

Do you belong to a club, society, or activity group
we ought to be writing about?

What would you like to see or read
in the *New Bernal Journal*?

WE WELCOME ALL SUBMISSIONS AND IDEAS!

Please contact **Vicky Walker**, editor:
Phone: 415-206-2140 ext. 108
Fax: 415-648-0793
E-mail: nbj@bhnc.org

Like what you see in the
NBJ? Want to help your
neighbors see it too?

Become a Volunteer Distributor!

The New Bernal Journal is delivered
free to the doors of almost every home
in Bernal. We rely on our generous
volunteers to make sure that it reaches
the houses of our neighbors, particu-
larly our seniors who may not make it
down to the stores where the *NBJ* is
also available. Please help make a
difference and volunteer to distribute
around your area today. Even
one block helps tremendously!

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The BHNC Needs YOU!

By Jack Chalmers

Like what you see in the *New Bernal Journal*? Want to join with your neighbors in taking care of this place we all love? Do you want to be a part of putting us over our goal of 1,300 members strong in 2004?

Your chance is here! The **Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's** annual membership drive is under way. You may have seen our banners at Precita Park and on Cortland Avenue. Maybe you've noticed our brochures in your favorite stores or coffee shops. And perhaps you've had one of our letters in your mailbox.

We are working to raise our membership from 1,121 to 1,300 members, an increase of more than 16 percent. At press time we are at 505 members, which means we still need 795 more to meet our goal by June 30. Come join your neighbors as a member of the BHNC, a member-led, community-sup-

ported organization for more than 25 years. Your membership serves two functions:

- You, along with many others, provide the funding that keeps the BHNC going. Your membership keeps our programs strong. Without you we could not provide services for Affordable Housing, Youth, Seniors, or Community Organizing. **Your membership dollars go where they are needed!**

- Our membership numbers show our strength. Whether we're talking to city officials, federal representatives, or funders from around the country about our work, when they see who we represent, **they know we are part of a community that backs what we do.** And your membership gives you voting privileges** at our BHNC Annual Congress on Saturday, June 12 (see the article on page 1)!

If you were a member last year, you have probably seen a letter from Mauricio Vela, our executive director,

asking you to renew, and you might have even gotten a reminder call from us as well.

We Need You! Come Back! Please, before you read another word, stand up, find the letter, take out the envelope, and write your check. Drop it in the mail or come on by our building on Cortland Avenue today so we can count you in for 2004. If necessary for your convenience, we'll come visit and pick up the envelope.

If you have never been a member, now is the time. Take a moment to fill out the tearsheet on this page and mail it in along with your check.

Either way, your dollars and your actions will go a long way to keeping this a special place to live, work, and be for all people. ■

***Voting members must live or work in Bernal Heights, reside with an active client relative, or reside in one of the BHNC Housing Developments.*

THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER HELP!!

We need your help to meet our goal by June 30! Join us:

- For tabling on Cortland every Saturday
- For phone banking at the BHNC on Wednesday nights
- For block walks every weekend
- To attend or host a house meeting.

An hour or two of your time over the next couple of weeks will help us meet our goal and get people out to our Annual Congress.

Help us keep Bernal a strong and safe place to live!

Yes!

I want to help Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center continue to serve my community!

- ☐ \$15-49 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$250 Neighborhood Center Advocate
- ☐ \$50-99 Supporting Membership
- ☐ \$500 Neighborhood Center Sustainer
- ☐ \$100-249 Neighborhood Center Friend
- ☐ \$1000 Neighborhood Center Sponsor
- ☐ \$1.00 Youth Membership (under 18)
- ☐ \$5.00 Seniors/Low-income Membership
- ☐ \$_____ Other

I am paying by: ☐ check ☐ credit card
Visa MC # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone-day Telephone-evening

E-mail

My employer has a matching gift program. A corporate matching form is enclosed.

Name of employer

- ☐ I am interested in learning about volunteer opportunities.
- ☐ I am interested in learning about Planned Giving opportunities.
- ☐ I have remembered the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center in my will.

Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.

Participate in the 11th Annual Hillwide Garage Sale

June/July 2004

2003's "Hillwide" hosted over
120 registered garage sale sites throughout Bernal Heights.

Voted

2003's S.F. Guardian's "Best of the Bay, Street Sale".

Three Ways to Join the Fun!

1. **Host a Registered Garage Sale!**
(Complete the attached form and form and mail it in to the BHNC by Monday, August 9th to get on the official map.)
2. **Donate usable items to the BHNC for our own sale!** (This is a tax - deductible donation to our center. Please bring items to 515 Cortland Avenue on August 12th and 13th.)
3. **Shop at dozens and dozens of sites on the day of the sale!**



Saturday, August 14th
9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special BHNC Member Discount for a site: \$20.00 for any BHNC Member, \$25.00 for all Non BHNC Members.
(Ask us how you can join today!)

Your participation in this event supports services to seniors in your community.

11th Annual Hillwide Official Garage Sale Registration Form
Saturday, August 14th, 2004

Name: _____

Address: _____

Nearest Cross Street: _____ 2nd Cross Street: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

☐ I would like to host a registered garage sale, enclosed is \$20.00 for BHNC Members, and \$25.00 for non BHNC Members.

☐ I'd like to donate the following proceeds from my sale to the BHNC Senior Services Programs.
☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ 100% ☐ Other: _____

☐ I would also like to host a garage sale on Sunday, August 15th.

Please return this form with a check or credit card by Monday, August 9th payable to the:
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94110

Credit Card Number and Expiration Date: _____ Type of Card: _____

For more information call: 206-2140 x132

Maintenance

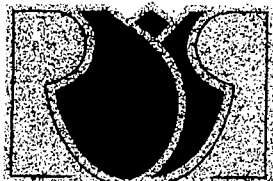
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8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Crocker Amazon Park
Moscow Street at Geneva Avenue, San Francisco

Program available to San Francisco residents.
For further details and eligibility rules contact,
(415) 551-4730 or sfwater.org



Housing Update

Community Draft Plan Is Ready

By Mary C. Lucero-Dorst

Following input from neighborhood residents at our April 29 meeting, BHNC's consultant architect and planner Lisa Gelfand will present the **Draft South of Chavez to Randall Mission Street Community Plan** on Thursday, May 27 at Coleridge Park Homes.

At the April meeting, residents shared their ideas about redeveloping the Safeway site with housing and other retail uses above and around a modernized supermarket. Some wanted the store entry pushed up to the sidewalk at Mission Street with driveways only on San Jose Avenue, while others expressed their desire for green or open space. Several residents wanted more affordable housing like Coleridge Park Homes. Questions arose about underground parking and how many shoppers and residents it could provide for, as well as potential parking for nearby businesses and residences.

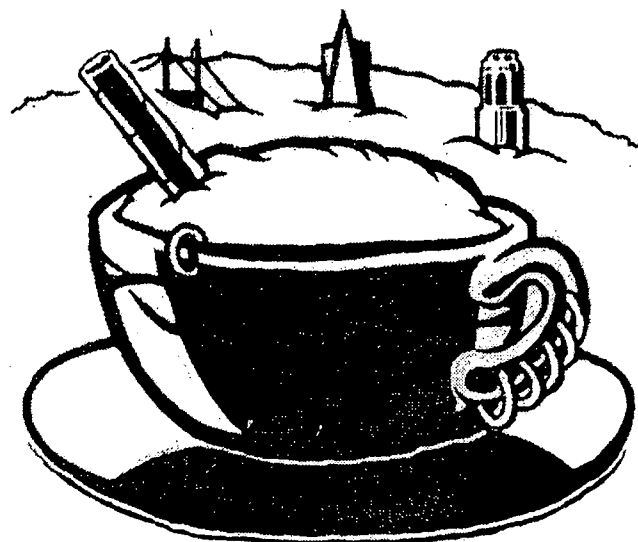
The meeting clarified that Safeway has no current plans to do anything new or different with its 30th and Mission store and remains open for business as always. However, given market pressures, the rising value of land, and Safeway's efforts to upgrade

stores at other locations every five to ten years, we believe that change will happen some day. Safeway must obtain a conditional-use permit to modify anything significant; such permits require public comment and hearings for approval.

Residents discussed more immediate options, such as "walk-in" movies projected onto the side of the supermarket, or neighborhood performance events. We also looked at how very minimal investments in planting greenery could improve the ugly, gaping hole that is now the Safeway parking lot and driveways.

Lisa has been pulling all of these ideas and opinions together into a plan. So, at our May 27 meeting, we will review the draft plan, finalize the streetscape next steps, talk with staff from the DPW and DPT, and summarize land-use issues. Since the NBJ goes to press before the meeting, be sure to join us at Congress on June 12 for the breakout session devoted to the Mission Street Community Planning Process and viewing the Draft Community Plan.

Please visit our Web site at www.bhnc.org and click on Community Services or Housing Services for more info. Contact Mary Lucero-Dorst at 206-2140, ext. 147, or by e-mail at mdorst@bhnc.org.



Progressive Grounds

Featuring Bluegrass Music on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month

Come and enjoy our newly remodeled patio and Mediterranean Room, perfect for your next meeting or party!

SUMPTUOUS MENU HIGHLIGHTS:

Grilled Vegetarian Sandwiches,
Roasted Eggplant with Pesto and Mozzarella
Grilled Chicken with Tarragon sauce
Greek Salad

Our delicious sandwiches are made on Lavash bread and grilled in an Italian panini machine for authentic Mediterranean flavor!

400 Cortland Ave., SF CA 415-282-6233

Cortland Avenue Happenings

LIBRARY NEWS

By Lisa Dunseth

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

Children's Librarian Skye Patrick has been promoted to branch manager at Park Branch in the Haight. She (and her red motorcycle) will be greatly missed.

DISCOVERING THE HISTORY OF BERNAL HEIGHTS: A Community Dialogue with Peter Wiley.

Join us at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 5 for a slide show, lecture, and discussion. Schedule an appointment for an oral history interview. Help us develop the library's history files by bringing your scrapbooks and photos for possible duplication. Enjoy refreshments as we celebrate Bernal's history and SFPL's 125th anniversary. (For easier access to the Meeting Room, enter through back door via Moultrie Street.)

GOOD LIFE WINDOWS

Have you seen the historic photo display at the Good Life Grocery? If not, you are in for a treat. Thanks to Good Life for providing the space, to Valerie Reichert for her graphic design skills and enthusiasm and, as always, to the Friends of the Library for all their support.

SUMMER READING CLUB

Children up to age thirteen, join us for Flip Over Books! June 12 through August 7. Read and win prizes, or come by the library for one of these special programs:

- The Bubble Lady, Thursday, June 3, 11 a.m.
- Crafts with Sophie, Wednesday, June 9, 4 p.m.
- Samba Samba, Wednesday, June 16, 4 p.m.
- Crissy Field Nature Program, Saturday, June 26, 2 p.m.
- Princess Moxie, Thursday, July 1, 11 a.m.
- Mystic Pixies, Wednesday, July 7, 4 p.m.
- Cotton Candy Express, Wednesday, July 14, 4 p.m.
- Sharon Kinney Stories, Saturday, July 17, 1 p.m.
- Crafts with Sophie, Wednesday, July 21, 4 p.m.
- Flying Angels, Saturday, July 24, 3 p.m.
- Magic Dan, Saturday, July 31, 2:30 p.m.

TEEN SUMMER READING

Why Guess? KNOW. Teens aged thirteen to eighteen can win Borders gift certificates between June 12 and July 24. (And what teen doesn't have required reading for the summer?) Call the library for details.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Carol: *Death in Venice* (the movie).

Hannah: *Princess Diaries* (entire series).

Kristie: *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris.

Lisa: *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* by Terry Ryan and *The Spiral Staircase* by Karen Armstrong.

Marianne: *The View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg.

Sylvie: *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* by Mark Bittner and lots of French travel guides.

Trish: *Pattern Recognition* by William Gibson.

All programs are free and sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Info: 355-2810.

"Bernal Bakesale to Beat Bush" Raises Big Bucks

Bernal neighbors came together for an old fashioned bakesale on Saturday, April 17, on Cortland, as part of a nationwide "Bake Sale to Beat Bush," organized by MoveOn PAC.



A volunteer at the Bernal Bakesale.

The national campaign saw more than 1,300 participating bakesales with \$750,000 raised. The Bernal sale alone made \$1,287.92. That's a lot of cookies!

29 volunteers participated, either bringing baked goods or helping sell them. Customers were lined up five deep all day to buy sweets and support the cause, but the sale eventually came to a close when the last brownie was sold. ■

Poetry and Yoga

Bernal Yoga on Cortland Avenue invites local fiction writers and poets to submit their work for consideration for its quarterly Literary Series. At these events, nationally known award-winning writers and poets read from their work and share the stage with community writers. The evening concludes with a reception. Donations of \$5-\$10 will be gratefully accepted to cover expenses. The next event will be on Saturday, July 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Deadline for submissions is June 21. For more details, see www.bernal-yoga.com or call 643-9007. ■

Back to the Picture

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Bernal Happenings

Bernal Filmmakers at SF Film Fest

Three films by Bernal Heights residents will be screened at the 28th annual San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, which runs June 17 through 27 at the Castro, Roxie, and Herbst theaters.

Annie Sprinkle and Sheila Malone's documentary *Annie Sprinkle's Amazing World of Orgasm* takes an educational and entertaining look at attaining the "Big O," starring legendary sexpert and all-round porn goddess Annie Sprinkle herself. She introduces viewers to a variety of "orgasm experts" who offer scientific, spiritual, and even humorous insights into achieving pleasure.

Zak Szymanski's short film *The Wait* visits the long and joyous line outside SF City Hall this past February, as thousands of gay couples camped out to get married.

Sara St. Martin Lynne adapted her own screenplay to make her short film *Rock in a Hard Place*, which tells the story of the friendship between a bullied, ambivalently gendered young girl and the boy who lives across the street.

For full details of screenings and times, go to the official Web site, www.frameline.org/festival.

A new restaurant blooms on Cortland Avenue.

By Vicky Walker

Walk past the flower boxes full of bright-red blooms into the light and airy Geranium vegetarian restaurant at 615 Cortland Avenue and you'd never know it used to be the All-American Meat Market — until you notice the bar's footrail, which was salvaged from the old store's meatlocker. The large tilted mirrors on the walls are also a holdover — these days they open up the room, but back in the day they gave customers a chance to make sure the butcher wasn't cheating them by putting a thumb on the scales. And if you step into the bathroom, the toilet-paper holder is a muscular-looking former meat rack.

Husband-and-wife owners Lorraine Garrison and Jim Allison know all about the building's history. They bought it in 1998 and have been remodeling it since the market closed for good in 2001.

Bernal neighbors have been anxiously waiting to see what the interior would look like, as well as to taste the food: all that waiting is over, as the restaurant opened for business in the middle of May.

Lorraine, who will be running the front of house, is a lifelong vegetarian and has been in the restaurant business for more than twenty years, including at San Francisco's Fleur de Lys and Boulevard. She credits her Austrian immigrant mother, Elisabeth Kinkel, with inspiring many of Geranium's recipes, some of which are featured on the menu. Lorraine describes Geranium's selection as "vegetarian comfort food," which includes an award-winning chili served with cornbread, Lorraine's Romaine (her own special Caesar salad recipe), and the All American "Eat" Loaf, a tribute to the former building's owners, but made with soy protein instead of the real thing.

Chef Matthew DuTrumble, who has wide experience developing vegetarian and vegan dishes, creates Geranium's seasonally fresh and ever-evolving menu using organic produce whenever possible. Dishes can be made vegan on request, and several raw-food items are always available. (Look out for the Raw Almond Roll, featuring crushed almonds, tomatoes, carrots, sprouts, and pesto, wrapped in red chard.)

The restaurant itself is decorated with art by Robert Perkins made from salvaged wood and other



Geranium: A bright, welcoming space.

found items. Perkins, who also is the assistant sommelier at Boulevard, put together the extensive wine list for Geranium.

On sunny days, outdoor tables welcome diners, while those who don't want a full meal can cozy up to the bar and order a selection of starters, or even get something to go from the deli case. Lorraine and Jim welcome all their Bernal neighbors to drop by and taste the fruits — and vegetables — of their hard work. ■

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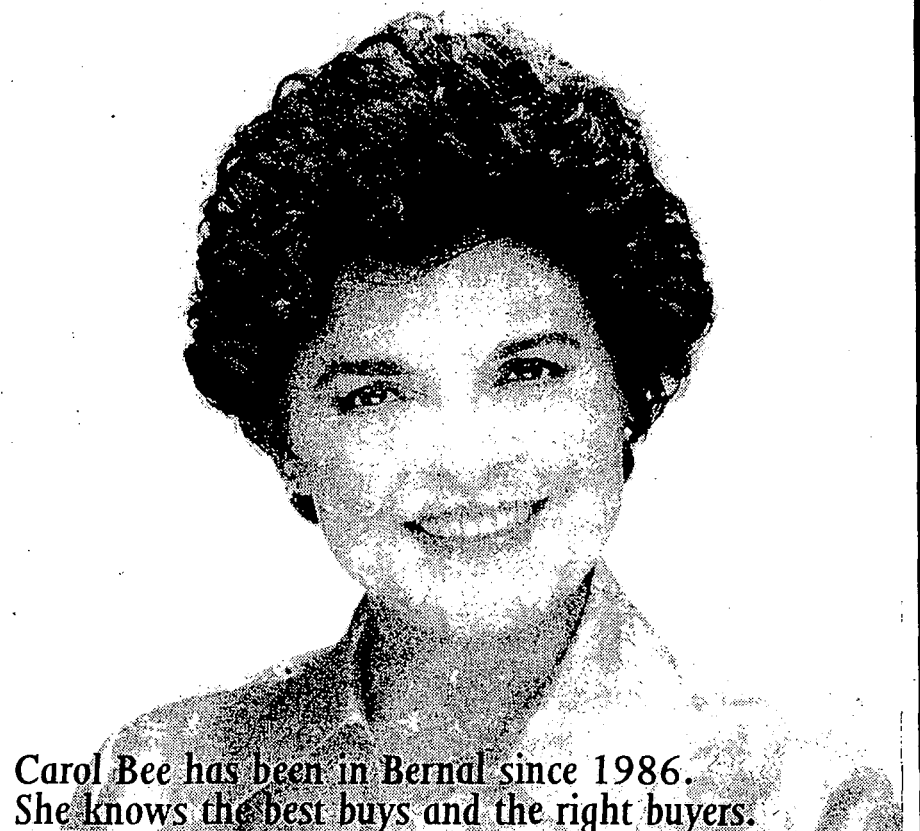
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Bernal Happenings

Holly Park Is in the Home Stretch

By Joyce McKinney

The renovation project at Holly Park is scheduled to be 90 percent complete by the end of June, according to project manager Judi Mosqueda. Although the park will retain its somewhat rustic character, the upgrades and amenities should combine to create a much enhanced experience for the neighborhood.

The children's play areas have been enlarged and equipped with modern play structures. A new feature is seating areas with tables so parents can be more comfortable while their children play. The barbecue — originally built as a bocce ball court — is being moved a bit down the hill and to the west. New grills, two picnic tables of different sizes, and wheelchair access to the area should make this an even more popular venue for parties. New fencing around the basketball and tennis courts has already been installed and those courts will be resurfaced. A backboard will be added for basketball and fence netting to the tennis courts.

The bathrooms will be renovated by the Recreation and Park Department in July and August. Portable toilets will be available while the bathrooms are under construction:

Although most of the renovation consists of upgrades to existing park features, there are some completely new elements. A very important one is a wheelchair-accessible path beginning at the east entrance (Highland Avenue) and meandering along the flank of the hill, below the play areas, and on up through the olive grove and around the baseball field. Benches will be placed along this path at several places and lighting will be upgraded. Other new additions include doggy-bag dispensers at each park entrance; a large bulletin board near the bathrooms, and an additional drinking fountain in the play areas. A sculpture has been commissioned but will not be installed for several months.

South Bernal is fortunate to have initiated Holly Park's renovation before the current city budget crisis. Nearly everything in the project will be delivered as planned. Reforestation is the only piece of the upgrade that has fallen victim to budget cuts. The intention to replace some of the large trees will not go forward at this time because funding for it was on a contingency basis and those funds are now being held in reserve for core department functions.

HELP PLAN THE PARTY!

Volunteers are needed to help plan an event to celebrate the new Holly Park. We will work with the city to determine a date. If you have time to spare, please contact Joyce McKinney at joycenmaytag@yahoo.com or at 695-9677.

Bernal Heights Preservation Oral History

By Sam Broyles

The next meeting of the Oral History Group of Bernal Heights Preservation will be on June 2, at the Bernal Library at 7p.m. At the last meeting, we worked on release forms, and we discussed the impor-

tance of doing "practice interviews." We are rapidly approaching the point where we will begin recording oral history interviews of Bernal residents.

For those who haven't been able to participate in our training workshop meetings, we now have a booklet with tips, questions, and other helpful information. Come to the next meeting to get a copy — or contact Gail Sansbury at 824-2659 or Sam Broyles at 643-8548. We look forward to hearing from NBJ readers about Bernal residents they think we should interview. All Bernal residents interested in participating — as an interviewer or as someone who has Bernal stories to tell — may contact Sam Broyles for more information. ■

Bernal Hill Natural History Walk

By Palladio

On the foggy morning of April 11, a rugged band of twenty ramblers circumnavigated Bernal Heights Park on the boulevard, following grasslands restoration expert Roland Pitschel as he identified the precious small native plants and evoked millions of years of geologic history. Marveling over the striations of redrock chert, the gang huddled close to see the flora that grew out of the crack and crevices and under overhangs on different sides of the hill. Ferns, bunchgrasses, soap plants, goldfields, iris, and California poppies were identified and explained. Too bad the star lilies and shooting stars were past blooming.

The group was well grounded, but had time to check the avian realm for raptors and songbirds. There was even time for a swift summary of human development on the hill — the telecommunications bunker at the summit, the fantasy of a "Folsom Street Tunnel," the ghost houses of the hilltop, and the ascension of the Esmeralda Stairway. There is a well-preserved hilltop up there, and well worth overlooking, or looking over. The grateful group of hikers broke up and dispersed: Farewell to Roland, outstanding in his field. ■


Roland and his wife Barbara also lead work parties on Bernal Hill. Neighbors are invited to bring clippers and tools on Sundays June 20 and July 18 at 11 a.m. to help control the invasive exotic plants, maintain restoration areas, and pick up trash.

Meet at the foot of the road leading to the phone company microwave tower near the southwest road closure of Bernal Heights Blvd. For more information, call 282-5066.




Walk leader Roland Pitschel, outstanding in his field.

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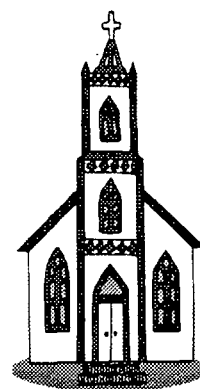


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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 6/5 | Silent Auction and Dinner Dance |
| 6/26 | Peace and Justice Prayer Vigil |
| 7/5-7/16 | Lava Lava Summer Bible Camp session 1 |
| 7/19-7/30 | Lava Lava Summer Bible Camp session 2 |

For information about these & other events, please call the Rectory.

Mass Schedule

Monday through Thursday: 9:00

Vigil Mass: Saturday 5:00

Sunday: 8:00 10:00 12:30(Spanish)

Supportive Housing and the BHNC

By Joseph Smooke

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center has a long history of developing and providing "supportive housing," which combines permanent, affordable housing and on-site social services to support people who face complex challenges — homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness — and help them to live stable and productive lives. BHNC recognized the effectiveness of this strategy for providing permanent housing for homeless families and individuals before Gavin Newsom even became a supervisor.

In keeping with this commitment, BHNC staff brought its technical expertise and experience to a legislative effort led by the San Francisco Organizing Project, the Coalition on Homelessness, Homes Not Jails, and Supervisor Chris Daly's office to identify unused or underused city-owned properties, declare these properties to be surplus, and make them available for nonprofit developers to create new housing for people who are homeless or severely at risk of homelessness.

Several months after the initial legislation passed in 2002, each city department made its list of surplus properties available to the city administrator. We spent many more

months reviewing the list to see if any properties are able to be developed. In May 2004, after working with Supervisor Daly's office to draft implementation legislation, fifteen properties have now been transferred to the Mayor's Office of Housing. Some will probably be sold because they cannot be developed, but their sale will generate funds that the city can use for new supportive housing projects. On May 11, this legislation passed the Board of Supervisors with a 9-1 vote!

In addition to this legislative work, BHNC has been actively pursuing partnerships to develop more supportive housing. We are working with Lutheran Social Services, the ARC San Francisco, and Episcopal Community Services, three very committed and experienced service providers. Please keep your eye on the NBJ for updates on BHNC's efforts to provide permanent supportive housing as we do our part to solve the homelessness crisis. ■

Celebrating Another Year of Volunteerism

By Suzanne Collins

As a show of our profound honor and appreciation, the BHNC hosted

its annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on Tuesday, April 20. Nearly a hundred BHNC volunteers were in attendance, a wonderful mix including youth, senior, and community organizers, NBJ distributors, Fiesta, the center's board of directors, and more. This was the most well-attended and diverse group of volunteers in the history of this special event. Cortland Avenue taqueria Tacos Los Altos catered a delicious variety of Mexican food, and the band from Skip's Tavern's was lively and even had some of the seniors dancing.

Volunteers are at the heart of the BHNC, and it would be impossible for us to accomplish all of the community work that we do without their combined efforts. Once again,

Want to be a volunteer? Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Pack and/or deliver food bags to low-income or frail seniors
- Take a senior for bi-monthly shopping or to the doctor
- Minor home repairs
- Volunteer at Gifts on the Hill, our thrift store (all proceeds go to Senior Services of the BHNC)
- Be a friendly visitor to home-bound seniors
- Distribute the NBJ
- Help with administrative work, including fund-raising and the membership drive
- Volunteer with the youth dept.

thank you to our volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at 206-2140 ex.130 or scollins@bhnc.org ■

A POEM FOR BERNAL HEIGHTS by Eleanor Vinsant

Early one morning while walking my dogs on Bernal Hill, I came across a labyrinth and was quite moved by its discovery. I forget what date this was, but it was some time within the last several months. I wrote this short poem as an expression of thanks.

*To my surprise
a labyrinth on Bernal Hill
carefully drawn with corn meal.
Christian meditation meets
Buddhist impermanence.
From its center, facing east,
this grateful pagan greets the sun.*

Bernal Artists, Making San Francisco Beautiful

Keeping her heart in the garage, for now

By Ron Morgan

Some may wear their hearts on their sleeves, but Folsom Street resident Adele Shaw stashes hers in her garage. Adele is participating in the Hearts in San Francisco project, a Bay Area-wide art installation that debuted this spring. The project will install huge five-foot-tall hearts, fabricated and decorated by local artists, at sites all over the city as part of an awareness and fund-raising campaign by the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, which hopes to raise \$1 million for projects

that will enhance patient care and comfort at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center.

Adele Shaw's heart, which is entitled "Warm Fuzzy Jersey Fur Memories," will be painted gold, and then covered with a jersey she's knitting from half-inch red and white polypropylene rope. The spaces of the knit will be large enough for viewers to catch the glimmer of the gold beneath. Adele, who in addition to creating knit art and teaching knitting, works in a variety of media including encaustic paints.

Adele is energized by her public art heart, and in the spirit of community art invites Bernal children to help her paint



Christy Majano, Henry Sultan, and volunteer artists executing the live performance mural on stage at the Mural Festival while Mas Cabeza provides live music.

it. She will open her garage at 3643 Folsom for interested kids and their parents on Friday, June 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Just wear some funky clothes and bring your heartfelt sentiments. ■

Precita Eyes, Brightening the Walls

By Vicky Walker

Precita Eyes Mural Art and Visitors Center had a busy Mural Awareness Month in May. The Mural Arts Festival celebrated the work of artists past and present with live music, food, and art, and a Community

Mural "Paint-In," where everyone was invited to swipe a brush. Guest artists created a before-your-very-eyes live mural painting.

Precita Eyes also offers classes in Urban Youth Arts, where youth aged 11-19 can develop a personal style, focusing on the positive and spontaneous aspects of doing street art, and learn how to collaborate on public mural projects. The classes run on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings at the art center at 348 Precita Ave. ■

For more information, call 285-2287, or go to www.precitaeyes.org



Adele Shaw shows off her knitting skills.

RON MORGAN

New Bernal Journal En Español!

Junio/Julio 2004

Congreso Anual de Bernal Heights 12 de junio

El BHNC emprende de nuevo el reto de apoyar a los residentes de Alemany y la escuela Paul Revere.

Por **Mauricio Vela**, Director Ejecutivo del BHNC

Otra vez es temporada de Congreso en el barrio y en el Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. Cada año tomamos esta oportunidad para compartir con nuestros miembros nuestros éxitos y también los desafíos, además de nuestros gastos e ingresos, mientras les damos la oportunidad de conocer a nuestro concejo de directores, a nuestros empleados y nuestros programas. Es también el momento de elegir a cinco nuevos miembros del consejo e involucrarse en campañas corrientes y campañas que se van a iniciar durante el verano.

Estarémos también buscando la participación de la comunidad en el plan estratégico de tres años de la organización que este año se renova. El Congreso también es un acontecimiento muy importante en la campaña anual para reclutar a miembros. Nuestra meta este año es reclutar a 1,300 miembros para el 30 de junio.

Como miembro, este es su centro comunitario. Nos da mucho orgullo ser una organización abierta y utilizamos el Congreso como manera de estar en acuerdo con la Ordenanza del Sol (Sunshine Ordinance). Los fondos que obtenemos para gestionar nuestros programas y actividades pertenecen a la comunidad, así que nos alegramos tener la oportunidad de compartir con Ustedes las maneras en las que invertimos estos fondos.

Nuestra elección anual de cinco miembros del consejo de directores les da la posibilidad de conocer a los candidatos y oír las razones por las que quieren formar parte del consejo y saber son los intereses y las calificaciones que traen ante el voto en el Congreso.* El consejo total está compuesto por 17 miembros. Cada año, se elige a un tercio de los quince miembros y el consejo nombra los dos asientos restantes por su experiencia.

Los miembros votantes que quieren estar en las elecciones de los consejeros tienen que entregar su aplicación a lo más tardar el viernes, 4 de junio a las 5:00 p.m. para estar incluidos en la papeleta. Pueden recoger su aplicación en nuestro edificio en la oficina del frente.

Nuestros cinco grupos de planeamiento en el Congreso este año tentativamente son los siguientes:

- Presentación del borrador de la propuesta creada por el Proceso de planificación de la calle Misión entre César Chavez y Randall.
- Cuarto año de la campaña "No Home Depot."
- Apoyo de la Escuela Paul Revere.
- Sesión de participación comunitaria en el Plan Estratégico del BHNC con destacamento de nuestro trabajo en el Excelsior.
- Presentación de nuestro nuevo proyecto de organización comunitaria en Alemany.

Nuestras campañas no pueden ser exitosas sin su apoyo.

Los invitados especiales incluyen al Alcalde Gavin Newsom, el Supervisor Tom Ammiano, la miembro del Consejo sobre Escuelas Jill Wynns, la Principal de la escuela Paul Revere Laura Parker, el Capitán del distrito de Policía Ingleside Paul Chignell, y muchas otras figuras importantes en el ámbito del desarrollo comunitario.

Como siempre, proveerémos café, pan dulce, y el almuerzo. Por favor, júntense con nosotros en esta mañana muy importante. Recuerden que éste es su centro comunitario. Esperamos verles el Sábado, 12 de junio, de 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM en el BHNC.

Para más información, llámen a Ron Morgan al 206-2140 ext. 155 o a mí al 206-2140 ext. 121.

*Los miembros votantes son personas que son miembros de la organización y viven o trabajan en Bernal Heights, son clientes del BHNC, viven con un cliente del BHNC, y/o viven en alguno de los alojamientos construidos por el BHNC. ■

¡El BHNC lo necesita!

Por Jack Chalmers

¿Le gusta leer el *New Bernal Journal*? ¿Quiere unirse a sus vecinos para cuidar este barrio que tanto queremos? ¿Quiere ayudar al BHNC en la meta de superar los 1,300 miembros en el año 2004?

¡Ésta es su oportunidad! La campaña anual para reclutar a miembros ha empezado. Usted tal vez habrá visto nuestras banderas en Precita Park y en la Avenida Cortland. Quizás ha visto nuestra propaganda en sus tiendas preferidas o en los cafés locales. O puede que haya recibido una carta nuestra en su buzón.

Nuestra meta este año es hacer que el número de miembros aumente de 1,121 a 1,300, un aumento de más de 16 por ciento. A la hora de imprimir tenemos a 505 miembros, lo cual significa que todavía tenemos que reclutar a 795 miembros para el 30 de junio. Júntese con sus vecinos y hágase miembro del BHNC, una organización dirigida por miembros y apoyada por la comunidad desde más de 25 años. Ser miembro tiene dos propósitos:

● Usted, con muchos otros vecinos, provee los fondos que permiten al BHNC seguir dando sus programas. Sin Usted no podríamos proveer nuestros servicios de alojamiento para personas de bajos ingresos, servicios para jóvenes y ancianos, y servicios de organización comunitaria. ¡Sus dólares llegan donde se necesitan!

● El número de miembros es prueba de nuestra fuerza. Cuando hablamos del trabajo que hacemos con oficiales de la ciudad, representantes federales, u otros organismos de todo el país que dan fondos para programas, y que ellos preguntan

¿quién nos representa?, saben que formamos parte de una comunidad que nos apoya. Y el ser miembro le da privilegios de votante* en el **Congreso Anual del BHNC** que tendrá lugar el 12 de junio (ver artículo en la página 3).

Si Usted era miembro el año pasado, probablemente recibió una carta de

¡LA CAMPAÑA PARA RECLUTAR A MIEMBROS LE NECESITA!

¡Le necesitamos para cumplir con nuestra meta para el día 30 de junio!

Únase a nosotros:

- Para reclutar a miembros en la Calle Cortland todos los sábados;
- Para llamar por teléfono desde el BHNC cada miércoles por la tarde;
- Para caminar por el barrio durante los fines de semana;
- Para participar en una recepción en casa en el barrio o para organizar una.

¡Una hora o dos de su tiempo en las próximas dos semanas nos ayudará a cumplir con nuestra meta y conseguir participantes para el Congreso Anual!

¡Ayúdenos en hacer que Bernal Heights siga siendo un lugar sano y seguro para vivir!

Mauricio Vela, nuestro director ejecutivo, pidiéndole hacerse miembro de nuevo, y tal vez recibió una llamada también para recordárselo.

¡Le necesitamos! ¡Vuelva! Por favor, antes de leer una palabra más, levántese, busque la carta, agarre el sobre y haga un cheque. Lo puede mandar por correo o puede pasar por nuestro edificio en la Avenida Cortland. Si es necesario, para su conveniencia, podemos pasar por su casa para recogerlo.

Si Usted nunca ha sido miembro, ahora es el momento. Tome un momento para rellenar la parte de abajo de esta página y mandarla por correo con su cheque.

De cualquier manera, sus dólares y sus acciones ayudarán mucho en hacer que este barrio siga siendo un lugar especial para todos para vivir, trabajar y estar.

*Los miembros votantes tienen que vivir en Bernal Heights, vivir con un cliente de la organización, o vivir en uno de los alojamientos del BHNC para personas de bajos ingresos. ■

La gran sorpresa de Home Depot

Por Ron Morgan

El *New Bernal Journal* ha aprendido que Home Depot está proponiendo construir una tienda de dos plantas con un centro para jardines exteriores en el Centro Comercial Westlake, justo en el otro lado de la frontera entre San Francisco y Daly City. La tienda propuesta, que formaría parte de un desarrollo gen-

eral del centro comercial, no requiere ningún reviso de la zonificación, y sólo se requiere que se revise el diseño para que la compañía obtenga la aprobación de permiso del departamento de planificación de Daly City.

Según Tatum Mothershead, un miembro del departamento de planificación de Daly City, el Home Depot propuesto en Westlake sería construido en lo que por ahora es el local no usado de J.C. Penney. Home Depot tiene la intención de demoler la antigua tienda y construir una tienda nueva de dos plantas, con unos 500,000 pies cuadrados de espacio comercial en la primera planta y unos 44,000 pies cuadrados en la segunda, además de 16,000 pies cuadrados para el centro para jardines exteriores. Mothershead dice que el proyecto podría ser aprobado y listo para empezar este otoño, aunque ella anticipa que Home Depot empezase las obras en la primavera del próximo año para razones prácticas.

El desarrollo de un Home Depot de este tamaño lleva a unas preguntas serias sobre el Reporte de Impacto Ambiental (RIA) para el desarrollo propuesto en el bulevar Bayshore, que todavía está esperando la aprobación de permiso. El RIA para el Home Depot de Bayshore/Cortland, lo cual tras dos años sigue sin finalizar, basa la mayoría de sus conclusiones importantes, sus aserciones sobre el tráfico y su consideración de alternativas para el desarrollo propuesto, en el hecho que sólo hay dos Home Depot en Colma, y uno proyectado en Bayshore/Cortland. Añadir una tienda nueva en el área de investigación del RIA pone en cuestión la mayoría de los datos del RIA.

Las afirmaciones que el Home Depot propuesto para Bayshore/Cortland ayudaría a impedir que la clientela que quiere comprar artículos para el espacio casero salga de San Francisco y que el proyecto proveería un aumento en el ingreso para la ciudad gracias a los impuestos sobre las ventas son ahora más dudosas con el desarrollo de un Home Depot en Westlake. Este Home Depot se encuentra en un lugar estratégico para conseguir a los clientes residentes en los barrios del Sunset, OMI, la Misión Externa, y Crocker Amazon, cuyos dólares y impuestos sobre las ventas saldrían de San Francisco a la misma velocidad que el dinero de otros barrios al este de SF irían para el Home Depot de Bayshore/Cortland, lo cual disminuiría mucho las ventajas para la tienda propuesta en Bayshore/Cortland.

La pregunta más grande que tienen los residentes de Bernal Heights al aprender que Home Depot tiene planes de construir una tienda en Westlake es si ¿Home Depot va a continuar de ententar construir una tienda en Bayshore/Cortland? De momento, la respuesta es "sí." La audiencia ante la Comisión de Planificación acerca del RIA Final para el Home Depot propuesto para Bayshore/Cortland está tentativamente programada para agosto. ■

Lessons from Atlanta, and a Big Shout-Out to SF's Youth Work

By Julie Orellana and Kristen Atkinson

In April, the BHNC's youth services and community organizing departments joined the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco in Atlanta, Georgia, at the tenth annual Symposium on Youth Gangs and Delinquency. We were honored to be attending a national event, but we did not expect it to be so memorable. We came to the conference ready to learn about working with girls in gangs, collaborating on projects, working with Latino youth and families, and ending violence.

What we learned is that, despite all the work still needed in our communities, San Francisco is often on the cutting edge when it comes to working with youth. Our city became the highlight in several workshops, and people were asking us how we run innovative programs, teach youth the skills to make

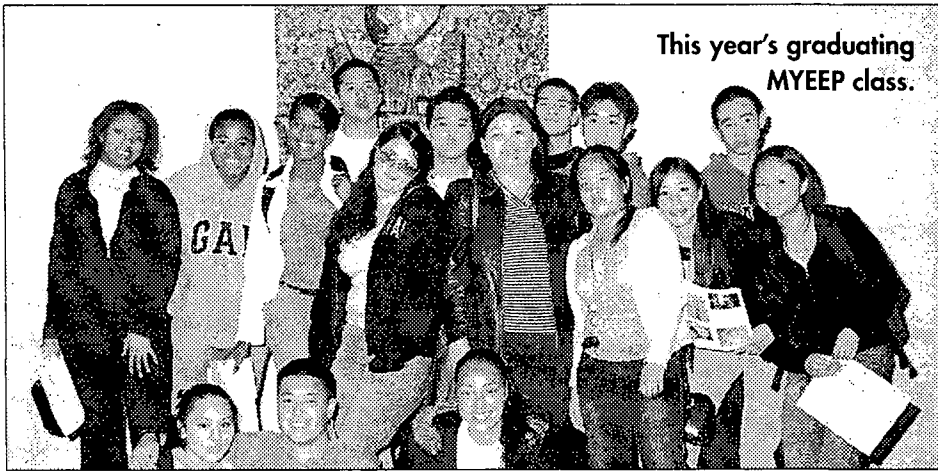
change in their communities, and how we put together strong collaborations that emphasize the range of services kids need.

San Francisco's accomplishments were brought to light when the Columbia Park branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco was honored for its work with gang-involved youth. The organization received the Legacy Award and one of the young women they work with received the Youth of the Year award. The most unique aspect of this recognition was Columbia Park's conviction that their achievements are possible because of the holistic community response of youth organizations in San Francisco. This was made clear when Columbia Park received their award. Instead of sending up one or two representatives to receive the award, they insisted that everyone representing San Francisco come onstage and share the spotlight. They even made T-shirts for all fifty of us to wear on stage during the award ceremony.

The sense of community we felt at this conference reaffirmed our belief in the work we are doing with high-risk and gang-involved youth, and inspired us to push ourselves and our communities to do even more.

MYEEP at BHNC By Nhan Huyny and Georgina Medina

The Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program (MYEEP) employs



This year's graduating MYEEP class.

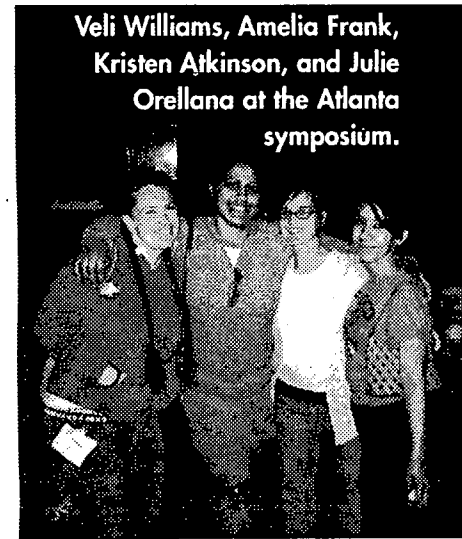
teenagers around the city. There are eleven agencies citywide that make up the collaborative, including the BHNC. Teenagers aged fourteen to nineteen are employed in such fields as child care, recreation, clerical, and youth services. MYEEP participants gain job experience. The youth work at nonprofit worksites such as Garfield Pool, Bernal Heights Rec and Park, and Kate Kennedy.

Twice a month, youth participants attend workshops at the neighborhood center where they learn about such issues as drugs, gang prevention, health and disease, and résumé writing. MYEEP

and BHNC help improve the community by keeping kids off the streets and giving them something to do after school. The program forces youth to learn responsibility because of their paychecks. Participants must turn in a timesheet every two weeks to get paid, so if they do not turn in their timesheets on time, they can't buy those new pair of Jordans that come out on payday.

One Youth's Experience

My name is Georgina and I have worked with MYEEP at BHNC for about a year. I have learned so many new



Vel Williams, Amelia Frank, Kristen Atkinson, and Julie Orellana at the Atlanta symposium.

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YOUTH SERVICES

things, met new people, and have gotten to gain the experience of being a youth leader (also known as a Counselor in Training or CIT). Every day from 4:00-6:00 p.m. I would be at BHNC planning workshops for the participants. Workshops consist of information on drugs and alcohol, sex education and pregnancy, violence, health issues, banking and money management, etc.

Not only did the participants learn new things. As a CIT, I learned as well. I had to get used to planning two-hour workshops with my fellow co-workers. I also got to attend special events here at BHNC like Fiesta on the Hill and Bernal's Holiday Toy Give-Away. ■

Waterfront Teens vs. Los Padres National Forest

By Joseph Colmenares

For the Waterfront Teens, spring break starts off on a bright and early morning. On Monday, April 12, all ten youth and two adult chaperones boarded the bus for the four-and-a-half-hour ride to Los Padres National Forest. We're headed out for a week-long leadership and team-building

retreat in the middle of the wilderness.

We arrive at Indian Station base camp to unload our survival equipment and prepare for our journey. Our first goal is to learn about each other and build upon our individual strengths. We set up camp and begin our teambuilding exercises with a hike up the nearest mountain. Looking up at the mountain, we think to ourselves: "No problem!" Getting to the top of the mountain: again, "No problem." Jumping off the face of mountain backwards: "Courageous." And going back up for more: "Totally exhilarating!"

This group of teens accomplished more in one day than they could ever have imagined. For the next four days, the group grew closer and closer and formed a tight little family. We trekked through some tough terrain to reach what was paradise in the midst of the forest. Challenges arose throughout the trip, like forgetting the cooking utensils back at base camp. Yet the youth worked together to overcome the obstacles that arose. Creativity and problem-solving were present throughout the trip, and the youth returned home with a renewed sense of personal skill and survival. ■



The Waterfront Teens at Los Padres National Park, shortly before heading off into the wilderness.

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Bernal Schools Update

By Amy Risch

Shop and Dine for Bernal Schools

Thanks to your support and the wonderful merchants on Cortland, we raised more than \$800 in our Shop and Dine for Bernal Schools event. We would like to make this an annual event, so if you have ideas for ways to make it better, please let me know! Also, please thank the merchants and let them know that you appreciate their support for our schools.

Bernal Hill Realty

Friends of Bernal Schools was the Winter 2003-2004 recipient of the Bernal Hill Award from Bernal Hill Realty. We were mentioned in their newsletter and spotlighted on their Web site and received a \$359.75 donation from them. Thank you!

Community Congress

On June 12, the BHNC will hold its Community Congress. This annual meeting provides a forum for members and the community to provide input into the work of the center and present issues the center can focus on for the coming year. There will be a breakout focus group on Bernal's elementary schools, and we'd like to hear your ideas, concerns, and issue. If you would like to help with the organizing of the meeting, please call Amy at 642-5650.

In general, these breakout sessions target some local officials and seek to get specific changes promised from them or present spe-

cific issues for their attention. What issues and needs would be good to present from the community about the schools? Are there any officials in government, at the district, or on the school board you would like to see targeted? What do you think the neighborhood center can do to help?

About Friends of Bernal Schools

In response to budget cuts in public education, Bernal neighbors started Friends of Bernal Schools to provide our schools with the enrichment and resources that reflect Bernal's history of support for the community. The four elementary schools in our area — Paul Revere, Junipero Serra, Leonard Flynn and Fairmount — all draw students from Bernal Heights, as well as students who come into our community from surrounding neighborhoods. Friends of Bernal Schools believes that Bernal is a great place to live, and therefore should also have great schools for all who choose to be educated in our community!

To donate to Friends of Bernal Schools or for more information, please call 648-4019 or e-mail fobs@muleteam.com

Fairmount School

By Jan Goben

At the last PTA meeting in May, Fairmount parents had a dilemma: how to spend a gift of nearly \$100,000 from a benefit performance of *The Lion King*.

Parents wandered through the cafeteria, sticking colored dots next to their favorites: carpeting, ceramics instructor, arts supplies, portable stage, supplies for the Amigos after-school program.

The most popular item was removing old carpeting from the classrooms, which have been there for thirty years, according to Principal Karling Aguilera Fort. The spending wish list also includes art consultants, equipment for physical education programs and for special-education students, and professional development. Some of the money will be used for an all-staff retreat to Point Reyes, to help teachers and staff prepare for the coming year.

Work Day: The volunteer group Hands On San Francisco held its sixth annual work day on May 8, and thirty people showed up at Fairmount to help fix the sprinkler system, build garden boxes, pull weeds, and give the school's gardening program a boost. Julie Hagelshaw and Kate Simmons, the school's parents who tend to the plants and lead gardening classes, are planning to create an edible garden that will teach the children about making meals from the food they grow.

FiestaVal fun: The Fairmount FiestaVal filled the school grounds on May 15 with neighbors swaying to music, children painting masks, grandparents eating ice cream, parents taking pictures, teachers bidding on art projects, and a glowing school spirit. The party raised \$30,000 that will be used to supplement art programs, library support and physical education, among others.

Kindergarten welcome: Fairmount is

already planning for its picnic to welcome new kindergarteners. Saturday, August 28 will be a time for new students to meet teachers, older kids, and each other. Save the date!

Flynn Elementary

By Anne Colpitts

Flynn celebrated the end of a great year with a well-attended multicultural family picnic on Saturday, May 1. The Flynn Parent Group supplied hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken to barbecue, and parents and staff contributed other dishes and drinks reflecting their family's culture. The Brass Liberation Orchestra marched into the school yard to get the party started, and the fun continued with dancing to the rhythm of Flynn's Carnival drummers.

Flynn is also happy to announce the introduction of a Spanish Two-Way Immersion Program with next fall's entering kindergarten class. Two of the four kindergarten classes will be Spanish Immersion. Like our current bilingual program, the kindergarten classes will be taught 90 percent in Spanish and 10 percent in English, with the percentage of English increasing with each grade. Some of the children speak Spanish at home and others speak English — the goal is that all will graduate from elementary school bilingual and biliterate.

Junipero Serra

By Sue Saunders

Junipero Serra students had their hearts



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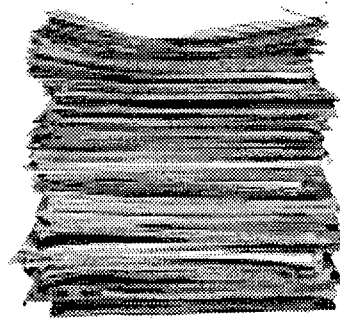
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JENNIFER WILLIAMS

pumping during the spring afternoon dedicated to Jump Rope for Heart. All proceeds went to the American Heart Association, but all the fun stayed at school. Students rotated through five activities including cooperative parachute challenges, Frisbee relay races, yoga, jump-rope skills, and, of course, plenty of rope jumping. Appreciation goes to third-grade teacher and J. Serra health advocate Dorelle Ball.

The first Saturday in May brought sunshine and a beautiful day to J. Serra's Health Fair. Fifteen organizations were represented. We learned about many programs including San Francisco Health Plan and their Healthy Kids program, the Bernal Heights Library Summer Reading Program, and SFPL Project Read. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center displayed unique art, and UCSF Health Hut had educational games for the children to learn about their bodies and staying healthy. Appreciation goes to Susan Kitazawa, RN, and Parent Liaison Mayra Madriz for all the planning and coordination that brought about this successful event.

J. Serra was represented in both the Education Fund Showcase and the UCSF Science & Health Partnership Conference in May. Science lessons, fabulous pictures, and students' work were featured.

A Cinco de Mayo celebration was one of the last whole school activities led by our PTA president, Stephanie Flor. The whole Junipero Serra family will miss the enthusiasm and dedication she displayed over the last two years.

Another PTA member who will be missed is Darryl Perkins, our SSC chairperson. His endless energy in the PTA and on the SSC is deeply appreciated. His skills will follow him to serve at James Lick MS, where his son will be attending.

Thanks to a generous \$2000 donation from our business partner, AT&T, the school library will enhance their nonfiction science book collection. We have another school year of great memories of monthly read-

Flynn students and parents enjoy the May picnic.

clouds because of Teresa Ono and her dedicated group of coworkers. Thank you, AT&T!

Paul Revere

At Paul Revere we are very proud of our new National Board-certified teacher, Kristine Roberts. To find out more, two of her fifth-grade students interviewed her.

Interview of Ms. Kris

By Dany Alvarado & Sherrel Cross

Dany and Sherrel: What is the main reason you wanted to be a teacher?

Ms. Kris: Because I like seeing kids learn things. It's great seeing a spark in their eyes when they finally learn something.

D&S: Did anyone else in your life think that you would be a teacher?

Ms. Kris: My brother and sister, because I would teach them things. We used to play school when we were kids.

D&S: What is your favorite subject and why?

Ms. Kris: Social Science, because I like to learn and see about our past and how it affects our future.

D&S: If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be and why?

Ms. Kris: I would change nothing - all the bad things that have happened in life have given me good things. You learn a lot from the challenges in life.

D&S: Do you think you're a good teacher?

Ms. Kris: Yes and no. Yes because I think at times I'm able to teach a lot to my students, but sometimes I try to figure out how I could teach them more.

D&S: When did you right away realize that you wanted to be a teacher?

Ms. Kris: When I used to play school with my brother and sister. I was the teacher and I'd put their names on the board when they were in "trouble." It was all role-playing, of course!

Jennifer Tucci

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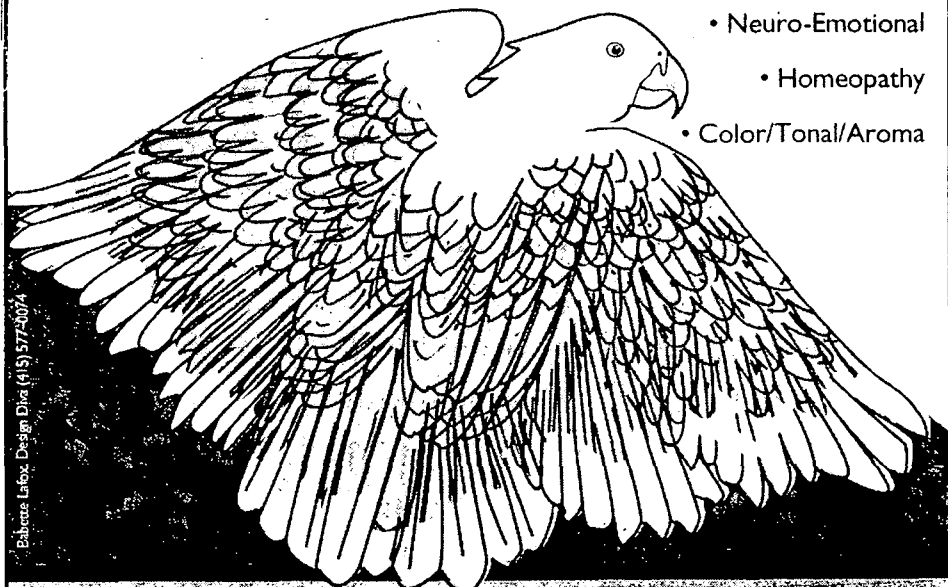
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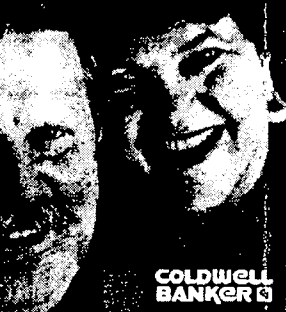
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Morning Glorious on Bernal Hill

Boot camp that makes you feel good.

By Charlotte Williams

Blink, blink, blink ... I saw it before I actually heard it. It was my electronic alarm clock signaling me that it was time to wake up according to my plan. I was starting my day at 5:20 a.m. and intended to be on the hill by six. I couldn't coax myself out of bed right away, but it didn't matter. The Northern Mockingbirds chirped their little hearts out in the trees outside my window. They were so loud that they overpowered the snooze button. I wondered why I hadn't heard their screaming before. After dressing in the dark and drinking a half-cup of coffee I was ready to go. This day was the first day of boot camp. I didn't want to start off late!

I've lived in Bernal since 1991, so being up on the hill wasn't new — being there before dawn was a monumental occasion. As I approached my destination I couldn't help but notice the feel in the air. The morning was quiet and the air was crisp. It felt like a sweet kiss on the cheek from a small child and it made me smile. Various dogs passed with their respective owners in tow, familiar with each other's company. The dogs looked frisky and playful. Some even seemed to smile. Their owners were more

resolute with their greetings but still apparently content to be out at the crack of dawn.

I had a sense that I was doing something important in the best possible place I could choose. Working out on the hill first thing in the morning feels good and has far-reaching consequences. Studies show that exercising in the morning is especially beneficial because by doing so our metabolism stays elevated throughout the day. We actually burn more calories during our awake time with an early start. I also learned that doing any type of exercise in sunlight boosts energy. Besides the obvious health benefits, the therapeutic effects are undeniable!

Looking around I noticed the results of the Bernal Heights Park renovation: new benches, new paving, a new sign, and very large rocks. Even the parking lot had a makeover. It was more user-friendly than ever. I was happy to see all the changes. As the walkers, runners, dogs, and owners infrequently passed, I acknowledged the beauty of our surroundings. The hill is a healing sanctuary for everyone in our community. I felt my spirits soar as I urged boot-camp participants to pick up the pace. Nobody seemed to mind. I knew this was going to be a great day!

I've been on the hill first thing in the morning many times since that first time. Each morning brings new insights. The coyote that lost its way comes off the hill every morning just before dawn. I've seen it three times now. Native American lore characterizes this animal as the creator and jokester. They believe there is always hidden wisdom where the coyote is concerned. It's no wonder a coyote lives on Bernal Hill. Perhaps it's confirmation that this is a great place to live, work, play, and exercise. ■

Charlotte Williams, M.Ed., is a certified Coach and Personal Fitness Trainer. She leads a new six-week session of the **Workout on the Hill** starting on June 7. For more details, visit www.coachcharlotte.citymax.com or call 596-6535.



Charlotte (front, center) and some of her Workout on the Hill group.

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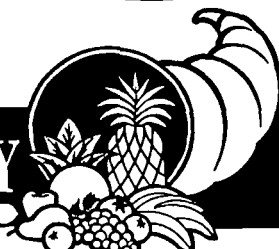
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MOM AND THE CITY: NAKED

A Bernal mom gives her views.

By Mama Spice

I've been known in the past for sun-bathing on the French Riviera wearing nothing but a fig leaf, but I've never felt more naked than a few days ago on Cortland Avenue.

What was I wearing? Well, to be precise it was what I *wasn't* wearing that gave me that feeling of nudity altogether. In fact, I wasn't wearing any of my children! Not one of them was coming out of a pocket, leaning from my bra, or hanging on to my pants. Suddenly I felt about sixty pounds lighter — and no miracle diet!

Men were looking at me (I'm sure it was none of your husbands) and, for a moment, it was like being back in Italy, where no matter how old, how shabby, or even how pregnant you are, you can always count on someone yelling "CIAO BELLA" from the other side of the street. I'm actually not so sure if they would be paying you the same compliment if they would be on the same side of the street, but hey, what the heck ... you take what you can get! And no matter how many times I complained about these accidental stalkers in my early twenties, after about a decade and three kids, I take it all back.

The question now would be: Do you stop feeling sexy during motherhood? Do those spit-up stains and those nursing pads make you wanna give up? Worry not; here are some little tips that

can help you along.

- Print one of your T-shirts with the word "BABYSITTER." Many people might even think this is how you are paying your way through college!

- Ignore all the stains, whether they are jam, chocolate, or worse. Wear them with pride and with nonchalance as if you are sporting a Hermes print! My philosophy is, if you don't see them they are not there. (And don't forget to use the same attitude for the smells.)

- Never forget to wear sunglasses, to hide those sleepless nights because someone is nursing, coughing, or barfing. They also add a little mystery, especially when there's no sun at all and it's foggy. Someone might even think you are hung over and "Oh, what a party girl she must be," while the last glass of alcohol you had was on the night you got pregnant!

- And remember, nobody says that once you become a mom you have to wear bad shoes! Shoes that are comfortable and flattering do exist, and not just in Florence. (Although if you need an excuse to visit Tuscany, there you have it!).

So, Gwyneth, don't be afraid to cross over ... there's still light at the other end of the tunnel, and if you play your cards right there is candlelight and champagne! To everyone else who is already a mom and who is sharing my silly worries, I just want to say one thing: "CIAO BELLA"!!!!!!!!!!!! ■

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Charlotte Williams, M.Ed., is a top coach, fitness expert and personal trainer who has trained thousands of fitness professionals and people around the world. A former Nike sponsored athlete and consultant, Charlotte carried her message to dozens of countries as a workshop presenter and speaker. She has her own training and consumer videos. She's written fitness articles for industry and consumer magazines, was a featured internet fitness guru, and was choreography consult to fitness celebrities. Her clientele has included San Francisco socialites, city officials, executives, and successful entrepreneurs. Charlotte lives in Bernal Heights, San Francisco.

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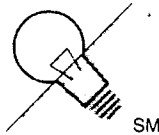
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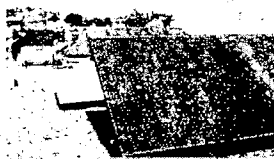
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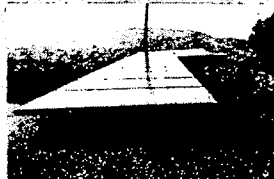
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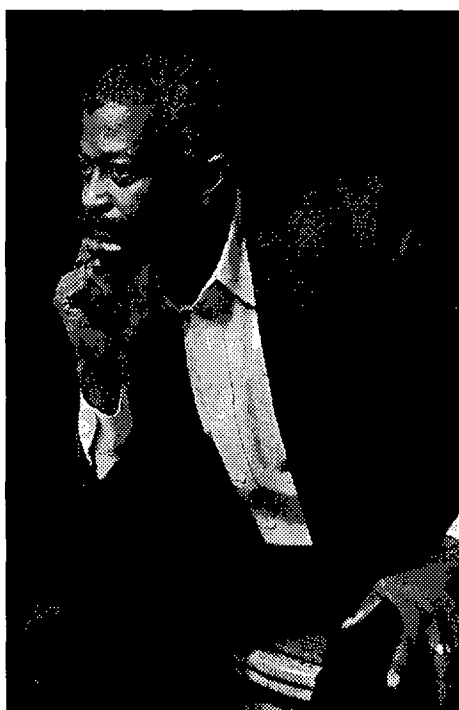
January 13, 1943-
April 23, 2004

Bernal Heights — and, indeed, San Francisco — has lost a true pioneer in the passing of Lawrence Pierson.

Walk through the neighborhood and mention his name to anyone you meet, and chances are that person will have a story to tell, or just a remembrance of the tall, handsome gentleman who always had a smile and a greeting for everyone.

Lawrence was born to E.L. and Beatrice Pierson in New York City. When he was still a baby, the family moved to Miami. He was the oldest of five brothers - Artis, Theodore, Alton, and Andrew, of whom Alton predeceases him. Lawrence proudly served his country as a parachutist in the US Army and moved to San Francisco after his discharge to be closer to his brother, Artis. There he met his wife-to-be, Joan, after she noticed the smartly-dressed young man driving around in a fancy car. Lawrence later introduced himself to Joan's high-school sweetheart as her fiancé, which caused quite a commotion but won Joan's heart. Only later did she discover that the car actually belonged to Lawrence's cousin.

The sweethearts were married on



COURTESY OF JOAN PIERSON

Lawrence "Coach" Pierson

Valentine's Day in Reno in 1973 and celebrated their thirty-year anniversary in 2003 with another beautiful ceremony in San Francisco. Their son, Lawren J., was born in 1984.

Lawrence was always sporty and athletic. Back when McAteer School was a golf range, Lawrence was the first African-American to introduce golf to the community. Generations of young men learned about etiquette and scoring from him. Lawrence taught all kinds of park sports when he started working for SF Parks and Recreation. He became a certified

umpire and referee, and from then on was known as Coach Pierson. Generations of San Francisco children can tell you how he taught them to play golf or softball, and barbecued for the teams after the games.

Along with two others, he started Go to Bat for Children, a citywide softball tournament that raises money for children in foster care, and the annual trophy given to the winners will now be named after him.

In the late 1970s, Lawrence and Joan ran a store called Lawjoan Boutique and Sports World out in Parkmerced, which was a miniature Macy's featuring women's fancy clothing and accessories alongside sporting equipment and clothing. Lawrence persuaded the local kids to start a basketball team, for which he provided the uniforms. He even taught them calligraphy. The couple made a point of employing seniors and persons with disabilities in their store, designing clothes that were a better fit for wheelchair users. Lawrence later became involved in the Independent Living Project and helped to found one of the first wheelchair basketball leagues in the Bay Area.

The family moved to Bernal Heights in 1988 after selling the store, and settled in on Wool Street. Lawrence loved to visit all the stores on Cortland

Avenue and would always go in to greet new store owners.

Lawrence is survived by his loving wife, Joan; his son, Lawren, and daughter, Laureen Higgins; grandchildren Anthony, Lauren, and Adam; brothers Artis, Theodore, and Andrew, and sister Katie; his favorite cousin, Doris Baines; and a host of loving relatives, friends, and neighbors in Miami and California.

The definition of Lawrence Pierson, as stated at his memorial service, was "Husband, Father, Brother, Friend, Caring, Comedian, Fun-Loving, Food Connoisseur, Golfer, and Dancer." Bernal Heights is a smaller place without him.

Leslie Reif

August 27, 1955-
February 7, 2004

Leslie Reif, age 48, a resident of Bernal Heights since 1989, died unexpectedly at home on February 7, 2004, following an epileptic seizure. Leslie was a familiar face to many in Bernal Heights in his own right, and as the husband of Millie Phillips, father of Daniel Reif (a fifth-grade student at Paul Revere Elementary School), and stepfather of Jeffrey Morgan.

Leslie was born in New York City on August 27, 1955. He pursued a career



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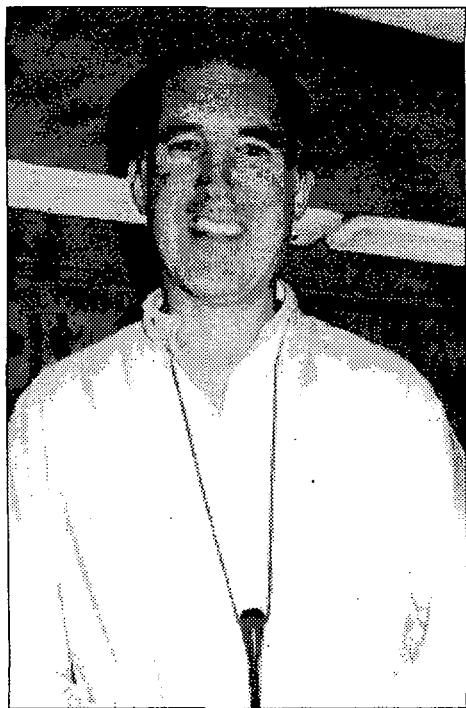


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OBITUARIES



COURTESY OF MILLIE PHILLIPS

Leslie Reif

in broadcast journalism, earning an undergraduate degree from Princeton and a master's degree from Columbia Journalism School. After working for CNN for several years, Leslie accepted a job with a network station in Los Angeles. When the sale of the station cost him this job, he moved to the Bay Area and decided to leave TV. He worked many years as a technical writer and at numerous less-prestigious jobs before finding his true calling as a teacher.

At the time of his death, Leslie was a fourth-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Oakland, where he was liked and greatly admired by his fellow teachers, staff, and students. Ironically, Leslie was inspired to teach by the late Randy Haves, the former principal of Paul Revere, who also died unexpectedly at 48. When Daniel started kindergarten at Paul Revere, Leslie volunteered extensively at the school and was befriended and mentored by Randy. Within a year, Leslie

was teaching first grade on an emergency credential in Oakland and had gone back to school to gain his full teaching credentials, a task he had completed only a few months before his death. Despite the many difficulties associated with being a teacher, Leslie loved working with children and looked forward to many years of teaching.

Leslie was of mixed Irish Catholic and Czech Jewish ancestry. It is not surprising that the term used most often by his friends to describe him is the Yiddish term "mensch." He was a kind, modest man who downplayed most of his own accomplishments while working hard to encourage the success of others. He was devoted to his son Daniel, the accomplishment he was most proud of, and was a loving husband and stepfather.

In addition to Millie, Daniel, and Jeff, Leslie leaves his mother Rita Reif of New York City; his brother Tim Reif, sister-in-law Desiree Green, and newborn nephew Paul Reif of Washington, DC; brother-in-law Rick Phillips and sister-in-law Donna Kuck; several aunts, uncles, and cousins; and many dear friends. His father, also named Paul Reif, had passed away many years earlier.

Leslie was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, where a memorial service was held for him on February 11. More than 150 people attended, including several of his students and their parents.

He was also a proud member of the Oakland Education Association (OEA). In cooperation with his family and the Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute, the OEA has set up an ongoing annual scholarship in his name.

The scholarship will be awarded to graduating seniors in the Oakland public schools to help them meet college expenses. The family would appreciate donations to the fund.

Checks should be made out and sent to the Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute, 1203 Preservation Parkway, Suite 303, Oakland, CA 94612. Note "OEA/Leslie Reif" in the space on the lower left of the check. The institute is a 503 (c) charity; all donations are tax-deductible.



COURTESY OF PAULIA FINN

Pat Winger

Patricia Winger

**November 12, 1955-
April 10, 2004**

It is with great sadness that we share the unexpected passing of a very special friend. Patricia Catherine Winger, 48, was born in Houston, Texas. She is survived by her stepfamily — Merrill, Francis, and Dean Freck — as well as many loving friends.

Pat was a resident of San Francisco for twenty years. She was a well-known and well-loved resident of Bernal Heights for the past ten years. She was known for her amazing talents in mosaic art and her abundant heart of compassion, as well as her silly sense of humor.

At the age of nine, Pat went to live with her stepfamily in Denver, Colorado, when her mother passed away. "She was a pretty child: inquisitive mind, athletic, feisty, courageous, and a champion for the underdog," wrote her stepmother, Francis.

Most of us will remember Pat for her amazing talent as an artist. She had a gift for seeing the approximate mixture of colors, shapes, and textures in her mosaic art. She was an incredible artist and a wonderful teacher. She persevered in this tough profession and never lost her passion for that art, always pursuing that joy in her life.

Pat was full of empathy. She had the ability to listen and understand and caringly advise. She also had a knack for seeing the humorous irony in a tough situation and was able to laugh at herself and the world when things were not going her way. She was a faithful friend and opened her heart to those she loved, and was caring and always trying to think of things she could do for her friends.

On May 1, many of her friends gathered in the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park for a beautiful celebration of Pat's life. We cried. We laughed, as Pat would want us to. And then we continued the celebration of her life and love at both Skip's Tavern and the Wild Side bar. We all shared wonderful food prepared by her special friends, and many a glass was raised in her honor.

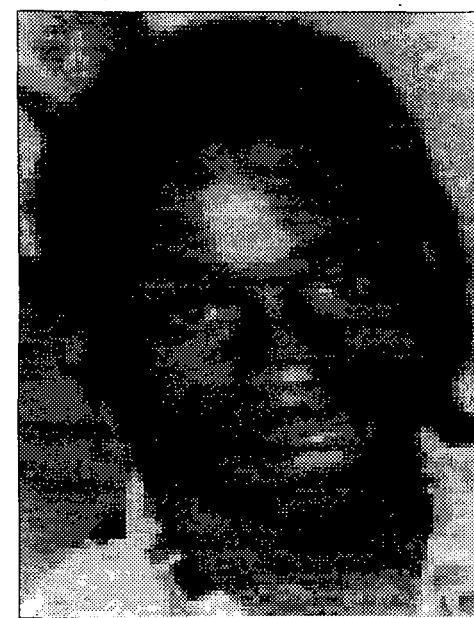
May you rest in peace, Pat, with all your loving, gentle angels. We will love and miss you always. In our hearts you will live forever.

For any additional information, please contact goingfurtherworks@yahoo.com

Johnell Lee Young

**December 14, 1981-
May 9, 2004**

Johnell Young was born December 14, 1981, to Tallaree Waters and Walter Lee Young in San Francisco. At the age of four in 1985 he was adopted by Dolores Hagler and John Coleman. He



Johnell Lee Young

attended school in San Francisco and went to McAteer High School.

Johnell was a lovable person, a very happy person who loved life. In 1998 he met Victoria Graff. They had a son, Johnell Lee Young Jr., on October 30, 2000. Johnell was a devoted father who loved his family very much.

We love you, Johnell, but God loved you best.

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Anti-Antenna Group Says Enough Is Enough

By Rhonda Price

By now you may have heard that the South Noe and Bernal neighborhoods have mobilized to prevent the installation of a six-panel antenna facility, which would add an additional ten-foot structure to the roof of the Safeway at 3350 Mission.

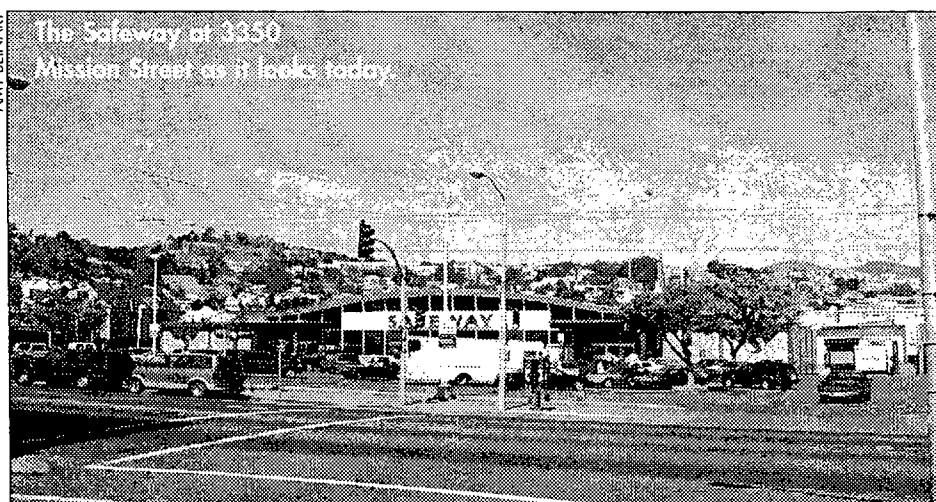
The city is preempted by federal law from denying permits based on concerns about radio-frequency emissions. However, there is compelling research to suggest that radio-frequency radiation (also known as electromagnetic fields) emitted by wireless antennas poses health risks, such as cancer, heart attack and heart disease, neurological effects, reproductive problems, viral and infectious diseases because of reduced immune-system competency associated with reduced melatonin (for a full list, visit the San Francisco Neighborhood Antenna-Free Union's Web site at www.antennafreeunion.org). There are concerns that children may be most susceptible.

This is just one of the reasons so many of your neighbors are opposed to the Cingular antenna installation. We feel it is unnecessary, undesirable, and incompatible with the

primarily residential nature of our neighborhood, and these are the only factors the city is legally allowed to consider when making a decision. In February we began compiling evidence to prove these points. To date, we have collected signatures from 45 percent of the people who live within 500 feet of Safeway and oppose the installation. We surveyed our neighbors who use cell phones in the area purported by Cingular to have poor reception, and found that all but one have good reception. A field survey was also conducted using a Cingular phone.

Nonetheless, as anticipated, the Planning Commission approved Cingular's permit on May 6. Historically the commission has approved all such permits for wireless antennas (there are currently more than 2,400 in San Francisco). The neighborhood now has the option to appeal this decision to the Board of Supervisors, and we are in the process of collecting the required number of signatures from property owners.

Our appeal will most likely be heard by the Board of Supervisors sometime towards the end of June (on a Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.). It is vitally important that as many of our neighbors as possible attend this hearing.



Whether or not you make a statement before the board, the level of involvement and opposition presented at the hearing will directly influence their decision.

The Cow Hollow neighborhood just won their appeal against Verizon on May 11. They organized an extremely effective campaign, with more than sixty people in attendance and 27 speakers in opposition. The Board of Supervisors voted 10-0 to deny the permit (in spite of Verizon's slick mailing to 3,300 of its customers offering to pay for their trans-

portation to attend the hearing to show support for Verizon). The board's decision was strongly influenced by the compelling data presented by the neighborhood regarding existing coverage, and the fact that the neighborhood showed up in force to voice their opposition.

To date, ten out of thirteen neighborhoods have successfully blocked installation of wireless antennas. Please contact Rhonda Price at 550-2667 or cleopatra716@sbcglobal.net if you need any more information or would like to support us.

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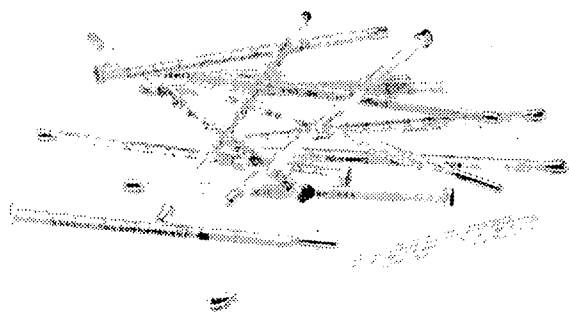
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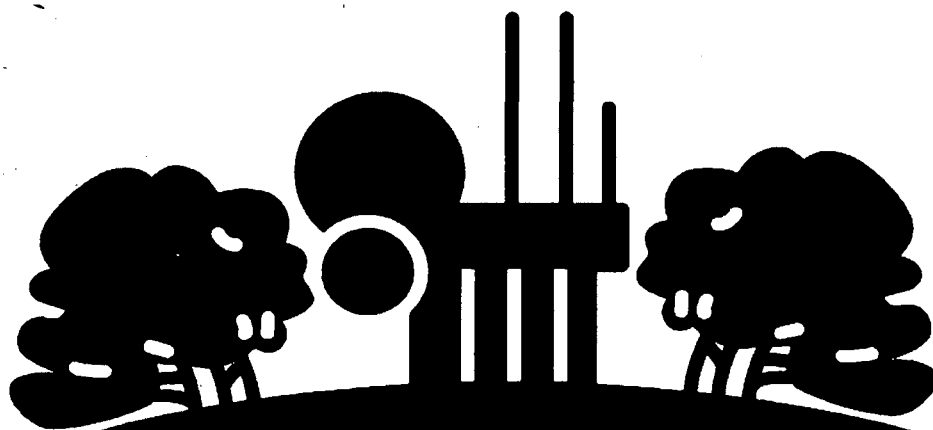
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